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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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October 15, 1952 SS 119

Near Record Crop Volume

Most late-growing crops improved last month and the total volume of crop production is now expected to be near record—only 3 percent below the peak reached in 1948.

Frost Damage Lighter Than Usual

Frost damage in September was light and the extended growing season permitted late-planted flax, corn and other crops to mature and to improve yields. Rapid progress in harvesting reduced harvesting loss. Only 4 crops had poorer prospects than a month earlier...sorghum grain, sugarcane, apples and cranberries.

Corn Crop, 3.3 Billion Bushels

A 71-million bushel gain from a month ago brought corn production prospects to 3.3 billion bushels compared with 2.9 billion a year ago. Ten-year, 1941-50 average is 3 billion bushels; 1948 record, 3.6 billion. Indicated yield is nearly 40 bushels per acre compared with about 36 last year and the 10-year average of nearly 35.

Feed Grains 119 Million Tons

Feed grains produced (corn, oats, barley and sorghum grain) will total about 119 million tons compared with 114 million last year and the 10 year average of 116 million tons. Oats, at 1.3 billion bushels, is nearly an average crop; barley, at 222 million bushels is considerably below average; and the 71-million-bushel crop of sorghum grain will be a little more than half an average crop. The big tonnage, of course, is from the 3.3-billion bushel corn crop.

Near Record Grain Total

Food grains this year (wheat, rice, rye, and buckwheat) will total about 42 million tons, nearly as much as the 43 million ton record turnout in 1947. Included is the near-record wheat crop of 1.3 billion bushels and the record rice crop of 48 million bags (100 lb.). Rye and buckwheat crops are relatively small. All grains—4 feed and 4 food—will total about 160.6 million tons, exceeded only by the 177 million tons produced in 1948.

Adequate Hay Supplies; Pastures Below Average

The 104-million tons of new hay now indicated is of unusually good quality and compares with last year's big crop of 108 million tons. Supply per animal unit is likely to be adequate, with the steps being taken to improve distribution. Pastures over most of the country are furnishing less grazing than usual; October 1 condition was 67. This is down 12 points from average and 14 points from a year ago.

Oilseed Prospects Up From Last Month

Tonnage of the 4 oilseeds is up 4 percent from September prospects but is 4 percent below the big 1951 total. Soybeans, at the near record production of 286 million bushels make up over half the total and cottonseed over a third of the total. The 31-million bushel crop of flaxseed, though 8 percent below last year and 18 percent below average, is up a little from a month ago. Peanuts, on a relatively small acreage, are expected to total 1.2 billion pounds compared with 1.7 billion last year and 2 billion pounds average.

U. S. Cotton Crop Up From Last Month

The cotton crop, at 14.4 million bales, is up over a half million bales, or 4 percent, from the September fore-

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cast. Compares with 15.1 million bales last year and 10-year average of 11.8 million bales. Higher yields than last year are expected in the far west and most of the central States; below last year in Oklahoma, Louisiana and the Eastern Cotton States.

Cotton Production, Estimates by States In Thousands of Bales, 500 pounds

Texas.....	3,600; last year, 4,074; average 3,020
California.....	1,900; last year, 1,765; average 627
Mississippi.....	1,800; last year, 1,608; average 1,652
Arkansas.....	1,250; last year, 1,249; average 1,373
Arizona.....	1,050; last year, 803; average 250
Alabama.....	825; last year, 909; average 899
Louisiana.....	715; last year, 760; average 524
Georgia.....	690; last year, 931; average 686
South Carolina...	600; last year, 871; average 651
Tennessee.....	530; last year, 534; average 549
North Carolina...	500; last year, 542; average 523
Missouri.....	385; last year, 309; average 362
New Mexico.....	300; last year, 273; average 157
Oklahoma.....	215; last year, 462; average 455
Florida.....	27; last year, 32; average 13
Virginia.....	15; last year, 14; average 21
Other States.....	11; last year, 8; average 14

Larger World Cotton Supply

The world supply of cotton for 1952-53 is tentatively forecast at 48.7 million bales or 1.9 million bales higher than that of a year ago. An increase of 3 million bales in world stocks between August 1, 1951 and August 1, 1952 is expected to be partly offset by a decrease of approximately 1.1 million bales in world production. World consumption in 1951-52, estimated at 32.2 million bales, is about 0.8 million bales below last year's estimate.

More Potatoes Than Previously Indicated

Potato crop is estimated at nearly 346 million bushels, 8 million bushels larger than indicated a month ago.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Aug. 15 1952	Sept. 15 1952	Sept. 15 1952
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.04	2.09	2.46
Corn, bu.dol.	1.73	1.71	1.78
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.9	11.1	13.3
Cotton, lb.ct.	37.92	39.17	34.47
Potatoes, bu.dol.	2.78	2.22	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	20.90	19.10	21.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	24.90	23.80	20.90
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	27.40	26.00	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	25.60	24.10	23.00
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 76.6	1/ 74.7	75.8
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.88	1/2/ 4.88	4.77
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	26.5	26.3	32.1
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 46.9	1/ 43.5	50.8

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Increase is in the late crop and mostly in the West. Last year's production was 326 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 415 million.

Other Field Crops, '52 With Comparisons

Sweetpotatoes, 30.8 million bushels. Production last year, 28.3 million; average, 57.7 million.
Tobacco, 2,235 million pounds. Production last year, 2,328 million; average, 1,842 million.
Sugarcane (sugar and seed) 7.4 million tons. Production last year, 6.1 million; average, 6.2 million.
Sugar beets, 10.3 million tons. Production last year, 10.5 million; average, 10 million.
Hops, 61.3 million pounds. Production last year, 63.2 million; average, 48.8 million.
Beans (dry edible, 100 lbs.) 16.3 million bags. Production last year, 17.4 million; average, 18 million.
Peas (dry field, 100 lbs.) 2.7 million bags. Production last year, 3.8 million; average, 6 million.
Soybeans (for beans) 286.2 million bushels. Production last year, 280.5 million average, 202 million.
Peanuts (picked and threshed) 1,225 million pounds. Production last year, 1,676 million; average, 2,042 million.

Corn Supply Up From Year Ago

Supply of corn on farms Oct. 1 (carry-over plus estimated production) is about 3,094 million bushels, 4 percent more than last year's 2,965 million and larger than average by 2 percent.

Smaller Stocks of Old Corn on Farms

Prospects for a good corn crop this year and need for crib space encouraged many farmers to sell off or feed their old corn. The 174 million bushels of old corn on farms Oct. 1 was 45 percent less than the 313 million bushels on farms a year ago, and was only about half the average carryover.

Other Grain Stocks on Farms (Oct. 1)

Wheat, 507 million bushels; 481 million year ago; average, 533 million.
Oats, 1,002 million bushels; 1,103 million year ago; average, 1,057 million.
Barley, 126 million bushels; 171 million year ago; average, 173 million.
Rye, 6 million bushels; 10 million year ago; average, 12 million.
Flaxseed, 13 million bushels; 20 million year ago; average, 17 million.
Sorghum Grain, (old crop) 6 million bushels; 8 million year ago; average, 5 million.
Soybeans for beans (old crop) 2 million bushels; 3 million year ago; average, 3 million.

Orange Production Prospects

Early and mid-season orange production for 1952-53 harvest is estimated at 61.6 million boxes, 8 percent above the '51-52 crop. Florida production would be 46 million boxes compared with 43.8 million year earlier. California Navels and Miscellaneous oranges, at 14.2 million boxes, will be up about 12 percent from the 1951-52 harvest. Texas will harvest about 780 thousand boxes of early and mid-season, compared with 200 thousand in the 1951-52 season.

Grapefruit Close to Last Year's Production

Grapefruit production (U. S. excluding Calif. Summer crop) is estimated at 37.2 million boxes—5 percent less than the '51-52 production, but a little larger than the nearly 36 million boxes utilized in '51-52.

Other Fruits, Production Estimates Oct. 1

Apples, 96 million bushels. Production last year, 110.7 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 110.4 million.
Peaches, 62.6 million bushels. Production last year, 63.6 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 68.2 million.
Pears, 30.9 million bushels. Production last year, 30.0 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 30.3 million.

Grapes, 3 million tons. Production last year, 3.4 million tons; 1941-50 average, 2.8 million.
Cherries (12 States) 202 thousand tons. Production last year, 230 thousand tons; average, 191 thousand tons.
Apricots (3 States) 174 thousand tons. Production last year, 183 thousand tons; average 229 thousand tons.
Cranberries, 812 thousand tons. Production last year, 910 thousand tons; average 770 thousand tons.
Pecans, 127 million pounds. Production last year, 155 million pounds; average 123 million pounds.

Milk Production Down A Little

Milk production last month totaled 9,060 million pounds compared with 9,145 million same month last year. For the 9 months, January through September, production totaled 90.3 billion pounds, about 1½ percent below the same period last year and the smallest output for the period since 1948.

Record Egg Production

The record total of 4.1 billion eggs laid in September topped the previous record of a year ago by 4 percent and was 22 percent above the 1941-50 average. Production first 9 months this year, at 47.5 billion eggs, was about 3 percent above the 1951 production for the same period. Numbers of layers in September were above last year in all regions except the West North Central States.

Prices Received and Prices Paid

Index of prices received by farmers declined 2 percent from mid-August to mid-September. Prices paid (including interest, taxes and wage rates) went down 1 percent, same period.

Business Continues Active

General economic conditions have improved since the settlement of the steel strike. Nonagricultural employment by August had reached a record high, and steel production by early September had climbed to near capacity levels. Incomes have been rising and retail trade, since July, has increased.

Employment Over 62 Million

Civilians at work in September totaled 62.3 million compared with 61.6 million a year earlier. Only 1.4 million are now unemployed, compared with 1.6 million in August and 1.6 million a year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	September 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	288
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	284
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	101
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	286
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 304
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	2/ 499
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	1/ 582
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Sept. 1951	Jan.-Sept. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	91.7	90.3
Eggs, (bil.).....	46.0	47.5
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 4214	3/ 4523
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 300	3/ 363
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 7297	3/ 7380
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 12179	3/12638
1/ August figure.		
2/ October 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
3/ Jan.-Aug. under Federal inspection.		